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SITUATION: FALKLAND
SUBJECT CATAGORY: FILE X

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3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs
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3.5(c)

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:
EIA108
OO RUEADWW
DE RUEAIIA #0388 1351752
ZNY SSSSS
O 151754Z MAY 82
[redacted] 3.3(b)(1)
RUEHC/DEPT OF STATE
RUEKJCS/DIA
RUEATRS/TREASURY DEPT
RUEAIJU/NPIC
RUEHSE/SECRET SERVICE
RUEHFB/FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
RUEBWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE
RUEADWW/WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM
RUEADWW/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF
[redacted] 3.3(b)(1)
RUEOFAA/CDR JSOC FT BRAGG NC
RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PA
RUCBSAA/CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
BT
~~S E C R E T~~ [redacted] 3.5(c)
[redacted] 3.3(b)(1)
DIST: 15 MAY 1982
[redacted] ~~S E C R E T~~ [redacted] 3.5(c)
[redacted] 3.3(b)(1)
REPORT CLASS ~~S E C R E T~~ [redacted] 3.5(c)
COUNTRY: ARGENTINA/UNITED KINGDOM
SUBJECT: CASUAL INVESTIGATION OF THE TEMPORARY KIDNAPPING OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS IN ARGENTINA (DOI: ABOUT 14 MAY 1982)
[redacted] 3.3(b)(1)

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED ON ABOUT 14 MAY 1982 BY A MEMBER (-------- ------) THE TEMPORARY KIDNAPPING OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS IN BUENOS AIRES DURING THE WEEK OF 9 MAY:
PAGE 3 [redacted] 3.5(c)

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MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

A. PRESIDENT LEOPOLDO ((GALTIERRI)) IS PERSONNALY INTERESTED IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE KIDNAPPINGS THAT ARE BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE INTERNAL SECURITY SECTION OF THE SIE. THE LEADERSHIP OF THE ARMY BELIEVES THE ACTIONS WERE CARRIED OUT BY MEMBERS OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE COMPENENT OF THE 601ST INTELLIGENCE BATTALION, THE OPERATIONAL ARM OF THE SIE. THE SIE IS HOPEFUL IT WILL BE ABLE TO ARREST TWO OF THE KIDNAPPERS DURING THE WEEKEND OF 15-16 MAY, AND THE SIE WILL TRY TO GET THEM TO IDENTIFY THE OTHER PERSONS INVOLVED.

B. THERE IS ONLY CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO IDENTIFY THE PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE KIDNAPPING. IF SUSPECTS ARE ARRESTED, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN CONFESSIONS FROM THEM BECAUSE THEIR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES WOULD BE THE PERSONS INTERROGATING THEM, AND THE LATTER CAN BE ASSUMED TO BE LESS THAN ZEALOUS IN THEIR PURSUIT OF THE FACTS. [redacted] MANY PEOPLE IN THE 601ST BATTALION KNOW THE NAMES 3.3(b)(1)
OF THE PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE KIDNAPPINGS, BUT THE "CODE OF HONOR" OF THE 601ST BATTALION WOULD NOT PERMIT THEM TO INFORM ON THEIR FRIENDS. IN ADDITION, THERE IS DIVIDED OPINION WITHIN THE INTERNAL SECURITY SECTION OF THE SIE THAT IS DOING THE INVESTIGATING. SOME PERSONNEL ARE NOT SERIOUSLY INVESTIGATING AT ALL, AND THOSE WHO ARE TRYING TO DO THE INVESTIGATION ARE CONSIDERED OUTSIDERS AND ARE GETTING NO
PAGE 4 [redacted] 3.5(c)
COOPERATION FROM THIER COLLEAGUES.)

C. NO INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON THE MOTIVATION FOR THE KIDNAPPINGS; WITHIN THE SIE, THERE IS SPECULATION THAT THE PERSONS INVOLVED DID IT BECAUSE OF THEIR PERSONAL ANTI-BRITISH AND ANTI-U.S. RESPONSE TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS PROBLEM. THERE IS ALSO NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON WHETHER SENIOR LEVELS OF THE 601ST BATTALION AUTHORIZED THE KIDNAPPINGS; IF THERE WERE SUCH AUTHORIZATION, IT IS SPECULATED, IT COULD HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO DESTABILIZE GALTIERI BECAUSE OF HIS ASSUMED CONCESSIONS TO THE BRITISH OR TO FORCE A BREAKDOWN IN THE TALKS WITH THE BRITISH AT THE UNITED NATIONS.

D. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THERE IS PROGRESS IN DETERMINING THE IDENTITIES OF THE PERSONS RESPONSIBLE, THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO MAKE A STATEMENT THAT IT HAS DETERMINED THEIR IDENTITIES; THIS STATEMENT COULD BE MADE AS EARLY AS THE WEEKEND OF 15-16 MAY. IN MAKING SUCH A STATEMENT, GALTIERI OBVIOUSLY HAS THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS OPEN TO HIM: TO ADMIT THAT PERSONNEL OR EVEN OFFICIALS OF THE SIE WERE INVOLVED AND WILL BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL; TO CLAIM THAT IT WAS THE WORK OF A RENEGADE GROUP THAT HAD BEEN SEPARATED FROM THE SECURITY SERVICES DURING THE "DIRTY WAR" AGAINST TERRORISTS; OR TO CLAIM THAT IT WAS
PAGE 5 [redacted] 3.5(c)
DONE BY TERRORISTS WHO WERE TRYING TO EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT.

2. [redacted] KIDNAPPINGS, THE JOURNALISTS WHO WERE SEIZED WERE 3.3(b)(1)
SIMPLY TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY; THERE WERE NO ADVANCE PLANS TO SEIZE THOSE PARTICULAR JOURNALISTS.

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3.3(b)(1)

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MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

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3. [redacted] THE IMPLICATION OF THIS INFORMATION IS THAT NO SERIOUS ATTEMPT IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY TO IDENTIFY AND PUNISH THE PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KIDNAPPING OF THE JOURNALISTS. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE ARMY OR THE PRESIDENT IS AWARE OF THE CASUAL NATURE OF THE INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY.)

[redacted]

PAGE 6 [redacted]

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